

AGENDA ITEM 5: Executive Director report – January 15, 2015

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Requested Action: **Receive report**

Executive Director Report

January 15, 2015

Program and Project Update

1. **Delta National Heritage Area (NHA):** There was legislative activity at the end of the recent session of Congress to include the proposed Delta NHA as part of a broader package of NHA designations, but the legislation never made it to a vote. Senator Feinstein’s office intends to reintroduce the Delta NHA legislation in the new Congress, and Congressman Garamendi is expected to do the same.
2. **DPC Land Use Comments:** As part of our responsibility to ensure that local land use decisions in the Delta are consistent with the Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP), Commission staff prepare comment letters to advise local agencies on their projects’ consistency with the LURMP. The chart below lists the comment letters prepared by Commission staff from November 15, 2014 through January 8, 2015.

LAND USE PROJECTS – COMMENT LETTERS PROVIDED
November 15, 2014 to January 8, 2015

County	Project	Total Projects	Primary Zone	Secondary Zone	In Both Zones
Contra Costa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City of Oakley Housing Element (Citywide)• Contra Costa County Housing Element (Countywide)	2	0	1	1
Sacramento	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sherman Island Sacramento River Habitat Restoration and Levee Improvement Project	1	1	0	0
San Joaquin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• San Joaquin County General Plan Update (Countywide)	1	0	0	1
Solano	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	0	0	0	0
Yolo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	0	0	0	0
Multi-County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	0	0	0	0
Totals		4	1	1	2

3. **Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP):** Commission staff received a briefing on the revised Conservation Measure 1 (Delta tunnels) in early December; changes included the relocation of pumps from the water intakes to the tunnels outfall and the relocation of a tunnel boring site off of Staten Island. Subsequent to the briefing, I authored an opinion

piece published in the December 26 Sacramento Bee that focused on continued concerns with the tunnel plan as outlined in the Commission’s BDCP comment letter.

Administrative Update

1. **Commission Membership:** Outgoing Chair Larry Ruhstaller finished his term on the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors January 5 and his seat was filled by newly elected Supervisor (and former Stockton City Council member and Delta Protection Commission member) Kathy Miller. Both the San Joaquin County seat and the cities of San Joaquin County seat will soon be filled with new Commission members.
2. **Commission Staffing:** The Commission says farewell to Associate Environmental Planner Raymond Costantino, who officially left the Commission in late 2014 to return to the City of Sacramento Planning Department. We will soon initiate recruitment to fill this position, as well as the Commission Clerk position.

We are far along in filling the Delta Program Manager I staff position. This is a critical staff position to manage the levee assessment district project, Land Use and Resource Management Plan update and Economic Sustainability Plan update, among other responsibilities.

3. **Strategic Planning:** The Commission’s Strategic Planning subcommittee met on November 18 and January 8 to propose changes to the working draft strategic plan. The subcommittee is working toward presenting a draft strategic plan to the Commission at its March 19 meeting.
4. **FY 2015-16 Commission Budget:** The Governor’s proposed FY 2015-16 budget was released on January 9. More information will be presented at the Commission meeting.
5. **Conflict of Interest Policy:** At the November 20 meeting, the Commission considered a proposed amendment to the DPC Conflict of Interest Code (which has not been updated since it was originally adopted in 1993). Staff worked with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to develop the proposed amendment, which would have updated the Code to reflect the current staffing of the Commission, properly reflect which positions require disclosure of personal financial interests with potential for conflict with duties, and what types of personal financial interests must be disclosed.

At the November meeting, Commissioners indicated they would like to see staff work further with the FPPC to refine the disclosure categories for certain staff positions. Staff has been in touch with the FPPC and will work jointly with the FPPC to refine the disclosure categories pursuant to Commissioner suggestions and develop a revised amendment to the Code. The revised amendment will go out for a required public comment period (including to all Commission staff and Commissioners). Following the public comment period, the Code will be brought back to the Commission for approval.

The next Delta Protection Commission meeting will be on March 19 in Rio Vista.